Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1.   (currently amended) An E-mail management system for managing a forward destination of an E-mail, the E-mail management system including a processor, the processor programmed to execute:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range;

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending a~~the~~the test mail to the forward destination address and receiving a~~the~~the response to the test mail; and

~~disclosing a response step to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range; and~~

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the ~~response step~~designation.

2.   (cancelled)

3.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute:

commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination

address by the response received by said receiving device.

4.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute:

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address if the confirmation proved successful; and

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

5.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor configured to communicate with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

6.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 2, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

7.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and confirming responses to these two test mails.

8.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 4, _the processor further programmed to execute:

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to _said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range; and

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to _said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

9.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, the processor further programmed to execute notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

10.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 4, the processor further programmed to execute:

conforming a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and

suspending the forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

11.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 5, the processor further programmed to execute:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

12 and 13.   (cancelled)

14.   (currently amended) An E-mail management system cooperating with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system comprising a processor programmed to execute:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range;

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; and

~~disclosing a step of a response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range;~~

wherein the confirming includes sending ~~a~~ the test mail and making a validity of the forward destination address confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response ~~contains a predetermined data string or not~~ conforms with the designation.

15.   (cancelled)

16.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

17.   (original) An E-mail management system according to claim 16, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

18.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

19.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 16, the processor further programmed to execute:
receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and
issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

20.   (cancelled)

21.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

22.   (previously presented) An E-mail management system according to claim 14, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

23.   (withdrawn) A mail server cooperating with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail, said mail server comprising:

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address; and

a forward destination registering unit registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail,

wherein said forward destination registering unit registers the forward destination address with its validity confirmed.

24.   (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, further comprising a receiving unit receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming unit confirms the validity of the forward destination address by the response.

25.   (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

26.   (withdrawn) A mail server according to claim 23, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

27.   (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range; and

executing, using a processor, a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination

address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending ~~a~~ the
test mail to the forward destination address and receiving ~~a~~ the response to the test mail; ~~and~~

~~disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined~~
~~range,~~

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with
the ~~response step~~ designation.

28.   (cancelled)

29.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method
according to claim 27, further comprising:

commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address;
and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination
address by the response received by said receiving device.

30.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method
according to claim 27, further comprising:

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when
the confirmation proved successful; and

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination
address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is
registered.

31.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method
according to claim 27, further comprising communicating with a mail server which registers the
forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards a
received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the
confirmation proved successful.

32.   (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim

28, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

33.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address and confirming responses to these two test mails.

34.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising:
      registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and
      registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

35.   (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

36.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,
      wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

37.   (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 31, further comprising:
      receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and
      confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

38 and 39.   (cancelled)

40.   (currently amended) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said method comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range;

issuing to a mail server, using a processor, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded; and

sending ~~a~~ the test mail to the forward destination; ~~and~~

~~disclosing a step of a response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range;~~

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response ~~contains a predetermined data string or not~~ conforms with the designation.

41.   (cancelled)

42.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

43.   (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 42, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

44.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

45.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising:
receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and
issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

46.   (original) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

47.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

48.   (previously presented) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

49.   (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said method comprising:
confirming a validity of the forward destination address;
registering the forward destination address; and
forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

50.   (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination, wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

51.   (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

52.   (withdrawn) An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

53.   (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address, said operations comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range;

~~and~~

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded, by sending ~~a~~ the test mail to the forward destination address; and

receiving ~~a~~ the response to the test mail,

~~wherein the operations further include disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range, and~~

wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response conforms with the ~~response step~~ designation.

54.   (cancelled)

55.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include:

commanding a sending device to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

communicating with a receiving device to receive a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

56.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include:

registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

forwarding a received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

57.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include commanding a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

58.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 54, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

59.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein said confirmation includes sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address and confirming responses to these two test mails.

60.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 56,

wherein the operations further include:

registering a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range; and

registering a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

61.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein the operations further include notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

62.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 56, wherein the operations further include executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the already-registered forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

63.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 57, wherein the operations further include:

receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and

confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

64 and 65.   (cancelled)

66.   (currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable instructions executable by a processor to perform operations to manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards a received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

said operations comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail addressed to the receipt address and the E-mail being to be forwarded to the forward destination address;

showing a responding procedure of how to respond to a test mail according to a designation, to a user who is within a predetermined range; and

issuing to a mail server, a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address to which the E-mail addressed to the receipt address is forwarded;

sending ~~a~~ the test mail to the forward destination; ~~and~~

~~disclosing a step of a response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range;~~

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by the response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address, by checking whether the response ~~contains a predetermined data string or not~~ conforms with the designation.

67.   (cancelled)

68.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein in said confirming, a sending device is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

69.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 68, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

70.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein in said confirming, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

71.   (previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming an already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing a command of confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

72.　(previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

73.　(previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 53, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

74.　(previously presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium of claim 66, wherein said accepting includes receiving the response in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

75.　(withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

76.　(withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 75, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

77.　(withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program

according to claim 75, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

78.   (withdrawn) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

79-100.   (cancelled)

101.   (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:
    confirming a validity of the forward destination address;
    registering the forward destination address; and
    forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

102.   (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,
    wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

103.   (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

104.   (withdrawn) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein said confirming includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.